The Real Marrakech Declaration

WE, CITIZENS OF THE WORLD, meeting in Marrakech, Africa, in one of the areas most impacted by Northern-induced climate change:

• ACKNOWLEDGING the evidence from IPCC’s Third Assessment Report that climate change is real and is already causing devastating impacts on humans and the environment, such as droughts in the Maghreb region, disastrous floods in Mozambique and Central America, spread of diseases in Madagascar, inundation of small island states, and unprecedented melting of Himalayan glaciers, will aggravate global inequalities and pose a grave threat to sustainable development;

• RECOGNISING that access to clean and reliable supplies of energy is desperately needed to meet even the most basic daily needs of the world’s poorest people, and that every day, hundreds of millions suffer from a lack of access to essential services, such as drinking water and lighting;

• UNDERSTANDING that renewable energy, combined with energy efficiency and sustainable consumption patterns, is essential to prevent dangerous climate change and provide the energy services required for the North and South to achieve sustainable development;

• DEEPLY CONCERNED by the disparity in per capita emissions between developed and developing countries – average US per capita emissions are 10 times higher than China’s, and 100 times higher than Tanzania’s – and similarly huge disparities in per capita incomes;

• RECOGNISING, therefore, that immediate, sustained and progressively deeper mitigation is necessary for adaptation to be possible.

CALL ON OUR GOVERNMENTS TO:

• RATIFY the Kyoto Protocol to allow its entry into force before the WSSD in Johannesburg in September 2002, and begin implementation;

• PROVIDE the financial resources needed to enable developing countries to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change and develop the necessary institutions to ensure that sustainable development goals are met;

• ENSURE sufficient funding, technology sharing and capacity building so that energy services are available and affordable to the two billion people in developing countries, particularly women, who are currently without access to adequate energy services;

• EXPAND renewable energy worldwide so...

Gang of four mug Marrakech Accord

In the early hours of this morning, Japan, Russia, Canada and Australia did their best to mug the Marrakech Accord.

On Thursday evening the President had tabled a compromise package in an attempt to fulfill the goal of COP7 – finalisation of the Bonn Agreement. It was rejected by the “Gang of Four” – Japan, Russia, Canada and Australia.

By rejecting the President’s package, these four countries are blocking the rest of the world from agreeing to a final package to complete the Bonn Agreement.

It is unclear what else these four countries are looking for as the tabled package honoured the Bonn Agreement and represented compromises for all countries.

It included a number of “crunch” issues that would form the underlying basis for the Agreement.

The Gang of Four, however, were not willing to make compromises, choosing instead to push the talks to the limit, potentially jeopardising finalisation of the text here in Marrakesh.

How much more do they think they can achieve with their thug tactics? After having received more than generous sink tonnes in Bonn, unfettered emissions trading and all the hot air they could ever want, these countries are pushing their weight beyond what the scale might be able to bear.

It is time to get with the programme Japan, Russia, Canada and Australia. Look around. See the willingness of others to move forward and see the damage your are inflicting on the cause of multilateralism. Finalise the deal TODAY in Marrakech!
Indigenous Peoples and local communities are significantly absent from the discussions at COPs and subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol.

Despite a constituency of 350 million, no adequate participation mechanism exists for us to get involved in formulating worldwide strategies for climate change mitigation.

This is despite the recognition of Indigenous Peoples as an interested world sector in global and regional discussions on environment and sustainable development since the Rio Summit in 1992.

This request for this situation to be rectified, by providing us with special and urgent status, is due to the impact of uncontrolled emission of GHG on Indigenous Peoples and local communities through hurricanes, flooded islands and territories, and deforestation. This results in extreme poverty, loss of biodiversity and death.

In addition, actions in the name of sustainable development by States and transnational companies have led to systematic violation of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This has led to disappearance, forced displacement and loss of identity.

Developed States must accept that the unbridled and inequitable consumption of fossil fuel deposits is unsustainable.

On the other hand, developing countries must be aware that land use change, unsustainable agriculture and deforestation, which contribute to climate change, respond to the unequal distribution of wealth, extreme poverty and foreign debt.

Efforts to integrate sinks into the objectives of climate change mitigation including discussion of modalities, without participation of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities, constitutes an act of further injustice and inequity against those who have historically been faced with discrimination.

Following declarations of the Indigenous Caucus in Lyon, The Hague and Bonn requesting the inclusion of an agenda item on Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the COP has granted a special status and created a working group to address problems related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This is necessary for us to offer our wisdom, knowledge and practices related to the objectives of the Convention.

The urgency of this request follows the Third Assessment Report of the IPCC (TAR-IPCC), the Report of Communications of the Parties not included in the Annex I of the Convention (FCCC/SBI/2001/12) and (FCCC/SBI/2001/14) and the Report of the Consultative Group to the Subsidiary Organs (FCCC/SBI/2001/15) amongst other documents. The reports had pointed out the current effects of climate change and measures adopted to mitigate its impact on Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

*Hector Huertas, lawyer, is the focal point of the Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus in the UNFCCC.

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Kilimanjaro’s melting peak

More than 80 per cent of the ice field on Tanzania’s Mt Kilimanjaro has been lost since it was first mapped in 1912.

It has been estimated that the mountain, Africa’s highest and one of its most recognisable landmarks, could lose its entire ice field by 2015 because of climate change. This is threatening to worsen an already tight water supply.

For more information on Mt Kilimanjaro, visit www.greenpeace.org.

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Close scrutiny on sinks and CDM activities

Proponents of bad sinks projects and CDM activities watch out. CAN groups are initiating networks dedicated to monitoring project-based mechanisms and building the capacity of stakeholders and NGOs affected by project activities.

These initiatives are motivated by the poor level of public participation provisions in the Kyoto Protocol, and will seek to redress the balance in favour of people and the environment.

Sinks-Watch will monitor sinks projects globally and develop campaigns against the worst examples of bad sinks projects such as native forest clearance and industrial plantation projects.

CDM-Watch will seek to build the capacity of affected communities and NGOs to engage in the CDM project cycle by providing them with information and advice about the CDM process and their rights within it. It will also provide a web-based clearing-house for information about the CDM.

Expect to hear more about the efforts in the months to come.

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Scene from recent floods in Taiwan

The top of Mt Kilimanjaro in 2000.
Looking forward to the funding

At COP6bis in Bonn, a group of Annex 2 countries committed an additional Euro 450million annually by 2005 for developing countries’ issues. Given the lack of progress on Convention commitments, the additional money should at this stage be used only for Convention-related financing, principally the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Country Fund.

The Decision on Funding under the Convention states that such funding should be additional, predictable and adequate. However, no mechanisms have yet been put in place to ensure the funding is delivered in an appropriate manner. CAN has some suggestions in this regard.

Predictability needs to be assured through a timetable to be agreed by Parties at COP8, including minimum amounts by donor country and general areas of allocation (i.e. technology transfer, capacity building, adaptation). This should cover the subsequent three years and be updated annually, so that planning and programmes can be developed over longer time periods.

In the short term, donors should “ramp up” funding to 2005 levels by deploying 80 per cent in 2003 and 90 per cent in 2004. This should be incorporated into the COP8 timetable.

Adequacy: Current commitments are clearly inadequate when compared to the needs of developing countries. There is little political or legal leverage under the Convention or Protocol to ensure delivery. The level of annual funding is due to be reviewed in 2008. COP8 should decide that such a review will be based on the needs of developing countries in the target areas. COP8 could also ask SBSTA to develop methodologies that assess the cost of meeting needs for technology transfer, capacity building and adaptation, to generate more relevant figures for revising funding commitments upwards.

Burden sharing and ensuring delivery: The Decision on Funding under the Convention states that modalities for burden sharing (in reality obligation sharing) need to be developed. It is important that this methodology is kept simple and transparent so that Annex II Parties resolve it quickly at COP8 and are not in a position to reinterpret commitments in the future by fiddling with it. This should be done via a COP8 decision in order to ensure that the modalities are transparent and resulting obligations clear. Supporting contractual arrangements are also needed with procedures and penalties for failure to deliver.

COP8 should formalise a “burden sharing” arrangement which should not be left to Annex II countries to work out amongst themselves. If burden sharing is linked to carbon emissions, 2000 may be an appropriate reference year as it would reward action on Rio commitments.

The US, Japan and Australia should enter into the burden sharing arrangement at COP8, given that they have all ratified the Convention.

Additionality of funds: Mechanisms need to be put into place to ensure that the funds delivered are additional. The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) receives complete annual reports on ODA from all donors and therefore has an overview of country activities. The COP could instruct the DAC to prepare an additionality report, to be combined with the annual funding reports that Annex II Parties are required to present to the COP for review.

Further suggestions for COP8:

- Many LDCs are stressing the need for concrete projects rather than even more needs assessments. A COP8 decision could stipulate that no more than 10 per cent of LDC funding is directed to needs’ assessments.
- Despite OECD rules, many ODA projects still involve considerable elements of tied aid. Monies returning to donor countries via consultants and merchandise should be heavily discounted.
- COP8 should decide that spending must be subject to procurement procedures which are completely open. World Bank and IDA competitive tendering guidelines could be used for this purpose.
- No money for energy efficient Cadillacs in the Middle East.

Flowers of hope

The Moroccan Network for Environment and Sustainable Development (REMED) has expressed regret it was prevented from holding a demonstration outside the conference venue.

In order to maintain channels of communication with the organisers, REMED has offered instead, to hand out flowers to international NGOs and official delegations.

“Fossil of the Day” Award

The United States was declared winner of the final fossil award of COP7 for placing all text relating to the LDC Fund in square brackets.

Japan won second place for its negative behaviour during the negotiations on Articles 5, 7 and 8.

Ibrahim

As a handful of Ministers locked away in smoke-filled rooms decide our fates, Ibrahim settles into his Moroccan cushions and watches high-level delegates drift to and fro. They are sadly reduced to gleaming scraps of information and indulging in idle gossip, which Ibrahim naturally deplores. Speaking of which, as a belly dancer sashayed by Margot Wallstrom, did the Commissioner look as though she were considering the cut of the dress? Ibrahim looks forward to future COPs with interest.

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Potential routes for Joburg Caravan to WSSD in Johannesburg, South Africa in September next year

Sailing via Rio